A

LETTER

FROM

Mr. *Maccartney*,

TO

His FRIEND in *London*.

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FROM

K. Macartney (9.)

Mr. *MACCARTNEY*,

TO

A FRIEND of His in *London*.

Dated at *OSTEND*, *Dec.* 4-15. 1712.

Giving a Particular

ACCOUNT

Of what paſs'd before and at the

UNFORTUNATE DUEL

Between His GRACE the

D. of *Hamilton* and L. *Mohun*.

LONDON,

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MVSEVM
BRITAN
NICVM

A

LETTER

FROM

Mr. *MACCARTNEY*,

TO

A FRIEND of His in *London.*

OSTEND, Dec. 4-15. 1712.

THOUGH ſcarce recover'd, and very unable to write to you, either Excuſes or Acknowledgments, I firſt acquit my ſelf of my laſt parting Promiſe, and ſend you a true Relation (of all that paſt within my Knowledge) of that unhappy Duel.

'Tis literally true, ſo needs no Dreſs; and I am ſure that where Proof fails, my Friends will take my Word for it; I don't write for others, ſo am indifferent as to their Opinions, my Satisfaction being that I obey you, and you'll approve on't.

My next ſhall be more entertaining with Occurrences in my Travels, ſuch as I was never us'd to, nor you have never read of; if you incline to let me hear from you before that promis'd Letter comes to your Hands, direct for me at *Antwerp* by the Addreſs I left with you, for I yet propoſe to reſide there the reſt of this Winter.

Beſides our own Companions, who will of Courſe ſee this in your Hands, I only deſire that the poor L. *Mohun*'s Family, and my own, may have Copies of it; neither of them being yet rightly inform'd of the Particulars, will I fancy be glad to read what has ſo much concern'd them.

Thurſday,

Thurſday the 13th of *November*, about 9 a-Clock in the Evening, my Lord *Mohun* came to my Lodgings, and told me that though he was prodigiouſly wearied out with his Lawyers, yet he could neither Eat nor Drink 'till he had told me his Concern, which I ſaw was very great upon him.

You know, ſays my Lord, there is a tedious Suit in *Chancery* depending between me and Duke *Hamilton*, and muſt have heard me complain, that his often wrangling with, and over-awing my People, has hinder'd their Proceedings; of which, though they complain'd to me, I have never taken the leaſt Notice till this very Evening; his Grace has, before a Maſter in *Chancery*, treated my Witneſſes ſo very ill, that I cannot help taking it as meant to my ſelf; particularly he ſaid of Mr. *Whittworth*, that he was a vile old Rogue, not to be credited, nor fitting for any honeſt Man to employ; ſaying this in ſuch an Air and Manner, as if I had produced corrupt Evidence.

My Lord, ſaid I, every body knows thoſe harſh and warm Expreſſions are not unuſual amongſt Lawyers, and ſometimes their Clients; for I can't but think, that if the Duke had meant to afront your Lordſhip, he would have ſpoken more directly.

We are to meet again on *Saturday*, ſays my Lord, and I have great reaſon to think, from the Humour we now parted in, 'twill be impoſſible for us two to meet peaceably, without ſome previous Explanation; and

and how ridiculous ſhall we appear to the World if a Quarrel happen before a grave Maſter in *Chancery*. 'Tis for this Reaſon I am come here, and beg the Favour of you to go from me to Duke *Hamilton*, and to tell him, in the civilleſt manner you can, that though I have had reaſon to complain of his Grace's hard Uſage of my Council and Evidence ſeveral times before now, yet I would not make theirs any Concern of mine; and though the ſevere Reflections he made this Evening ſeem'd to be directly levell'd at my ſelf, yet I leave them to his Grace's own Explanation; and if I am out of the Queſtion, then I only wiſh, that for the future we may meet on better Terms, and leave the Scolding to the Lawyers; or both by Conſent abſent our ſelves from their Meetings; but if his Grace have any particular Prejudice to my Perſon or Manners, he may find other Opportunities of telling me his Mind, and I ſhall be always ready to attend him.

When you have ſeen his Grace, and I know his Intentions, I ſhall be eaſie; for you know I am engaged to dine at *Aſhly* on *Saturday*, and would gladly get rid of that confounded *Chancery* Meeting. My Lord, ſaid I, let's go to Supper, and if your Lordſhip perſiſt in this way, I muſt do as you would have me.

We Supp'd abroad with Company; and at Parting my Lord *Mohun* told me, the more he thought on't the more he was confirm'd in the ſame Mind; and deſired me not to neglect him.

At going to Bed, I bid my Footman to riſe early, and to inform himſelf of Duke *Hamilton*'s Porter, at what Hour his Grace ſaw Company.

Friday Morning, between 8 and 9, my Lord *Mohun* came into my Chamber, while I was drinking of Tea. Says I, My Lord you are very early, and come, I hope, to forbid your Meſſage; for to tell you truly, tho' I have ſent to know the Duke's Hour, and think you intend no more than an *Eclairciſment*, in my Opinion this Meſſage is not abſolutely neceſſary.

I ſhould think ſo too, ſays Lord *Mohun*, if my Circumſtances of living out of Town, and my deſire of avoiding theſe plaguy Meetings, did not make it ſo: Therefore dear *Maccartney* go.

With that my Footman coming into the Room, ſaid Nine a-Clock was the Duke's uſual Hour.

Go then, ſays Lord *Mohun*, take my Hackney Coach, and I'll Drink Tea here 'till you come back.

I went in that Coach ſtreight to my Lord Duke's, and the Porter ſaying his Grace was gone Abroad, but would ſee Company at Eleven a-Clock, I left my Name as one paying his Duty to his Grace, and ſaid I would come again then at Eleven; which accordingly I did, and the Porter told me his Lord was ſent for on ſome very earneſt Buſineſs to my Lord *Bolingbroke*'s; but having heard that I had been to wait upon his Grace, bid his Porter deſire me to wait his Return,

or to come again in half an Hour. I chose the latter; and then not finding his Grace at home, and the Porter pressing me to walk in, and wait for his Lord's return, I told him that I had no urgent Business, but would take some other Opportunity of waiting upon his Grace.

I thought no more of going again to my Lord Duke's, till going to Dinner with my Lord *Mohun*, I was told that a Gentleman from Duke *Hamilton* had been looking for me at my Lodgings, at *White*'s Chocolate-house, and St. *James*'s Coffee-house; which my Lord *Mohun* too hearing, pressed me to go again as soon as I had Dined. I went then to his Grace's House about Four a-Clock, and the Porter told me that his Lord was at home to me only, and had bid deny him to every body else.

His Grace received me with a great deal of Civility, and after a small Preamble I told him, that I hoped I was employ'd to do good Offices betwixt his Grace and my Lord *Mohun*; and that I flatter'd my self he would find nothing offensive in my Message.

And pray Sir, says my Lord Duke, what are my Lord *Mohun*'s Commands for me; with that I told his Grace what my Lord *Mohun* had desired me, and as near as I could remember in his very Words.

My Lord Duke was walking while I spoke, and then standing still said, Sir, my Lord *Mohun* was very far in the wrong to me last Night, and I went early Abroad

Abroad this Morning on purpoſe to ſend a Gentleman to tell him ſo; but miſſing of the Friend I look'd for, and hearing that you had been twice at my Door, I gueſs by your Intimacy with my Lord *Mohun* that you might probably come from him, elſe he ſhould have heard from me before now; and impatient to know the Certainty, I ſent my Secretary *Gawen Maſſon* to your Lodgings, and up and down the Town to ſeek for you; and now, Sir, be pleaſed to tell my Lord *Mohun* I will meet him when and where he pleaſes. I deſire you to give him this for my Anſwer, and to bring me Word back again of the Time and Place; for no Man breathing is readier.

My Lord, ſaid I, I have no Authority to treat of Time or Place, becauſe I did not think it would become neceſſary, hoping your Grace would give my Meſſage another turn; and indeed, my Lord, unleſs ſomething more has paſt between you two than I yet know of, I think this Affair might be very eaſily accommodated; but as this Offer does not come directly from my Lord *Mohun*, I hope your Grace will not think me impertinent in talking more than I am Commiſſioned.

Come, come, Mr. *Macartney*, ſays my Lord Duke, I know theſe Matters very well, and I know what I am to do, both with my Lawyers and others; whatever comes of this, ſhall break no ſquares between you and me; ſo pray bring me back Lord *Mohun*'s Anſwer.

My

My Lord, ſaid I, I don't know that he will ſend any Anſwer; for if I underſtood, and expreſſed his Meaning right, he deſired chiefly to know your Grace's Meaning as to what related to himſelf, and I hope your Grace will think more calmly of it.

Well Sir, ſaid my Lord Duke, will you then meet me an Hour hence at the *Roſe* Tavern in *Covent Garden*? I'll bring a Friend with me, and we'll Diſcourſe on't.

I will wait on your Grace, ſaid I, and if I can prevail upon my Lord *Mohun* he ſhan't be far of, provided you can be brought to ſpeaking terms. So taking leave of his Grace, he conducted me to the outermoſt Door.

I found out Lord *Mohun*, and, unwilling to exaſperate, I told him but a part of Duke *Hamilton*'s Diſcourſe, and begg'd his full Power, that in caſe with the Duke and his Friend, I ſhould find ſome honourable way of reconciling them, I might anſwer for his Compliance: To which my Lord *Mohun* conſenting, we went together to the *Roſe* Tavern; and to prevent the Lords meeting by Surprize, I directed the Waitor that if my Lord Duke *Hamilton* ſhould come there to enquire for me, he ſhou'd ſhew his Grace into another Room, and call me to him.

Both which happening in a quarter of an Hour after, I went into his Grace's Room, and was ſurpris'd to find him alone, and his whole Dreſs chang'd from a long

long Wig and Velvet Cloaths, I had left him in, to a Riding Wig and Stuff Coat, without either Star or Ribband, only a St. *Andrew*'s Croſs on an old white Cloak.

You ſee, Sir, ſaid my Lord Duke ſmiling, that I am come *en Cavalier*. I ſee it indeed, my Lord, ſaid I, but hope 'tis upon ſome other Gallant Occaſion, no ways relating to our laſt Diſcourſe. His Grace reply'd, No faith, 'tis for the Buſineſs you know of, for, *Je ſuis preſt a tout*.

My Lord, ſaid I, I am come here by your Grace's Commands, not without hopes that by Diſcourſing with your Grace and your Friend, things might be better underſtood, and perhaps ſettled to both your Satisfactions.

My Friend is here, ſaid my Lord Duke; and going to the Door, call'd very loud, *Jack, Come in*.

Immediately enters Colonel *Hamilton*, in a Red Coat with Gold Buttons; and the Duke preſenting him to me, ſaid, Sir, here is the Gentleman who is to entertain you: Then turning to Colonel *Hamilton*, ſays, Do you hear, *Jack?* Lord *Mohun* and I have an Affair to decide, which no Man is to know of but your ſelf and Mr. *Maccartney*.

With all my Heart, ſays Colonel *Hamilton*; Mr. *Maccartney* and I know one another very well.

I never hearing of Colonel *Hamilton*'s being in *England*, ask'd him if he was juſt arriv'd from *Scotland*; And he ſaid, No; he came laſt from *Dunkirk*.

There being Wine upon the Table, I drank to him Duke *Hamilton*'s Health; he pledg'd it, and his Grace drank to me; on which I fill'd another Glaſs, and ſaid, My Lord, let me drink to a happy Concluſion to this Affair.

With all my Heart, ſaid the Duke; and now *a propos* to that, we have no more ado but to ſettle the Time and Place; that's all I come for here, and I think by ſeven a-Clock in *Hide-Park* will be the moſt convenient.

My Lord, ſaid I, 'tis not Light by ſeven; and beſides I have not yet conſulted my Lord *Mohun* on that Point; for I came here on another View, which by the preſent Diſpoſition muſt I find be now laid aſide.

Well, well, ſays my Lord Duke, it is all a Caſe, ſince you know the Time, I'll expect my Lord *Mohun* there before eight a-Clock; we cannot miſtake now, and ſo I am your Humble Servant.

Which taking as a Hint that he deſired my Company no longer, I left his Grace and Colonel *Hamilton* together.

I muſt here obſerve to you, that till this Colonel *Hamilton* came into the Room, I had not loſt Hopes of an Accom-

Accommodation; but the Duke presenting to me for Antagonist a Gentleman, who had had a long Prejudice to me, for being made Major over his Head in the *Scotch* Guards, besides a latter Difference which happened in *Scotland*, at the raising of my Regiment there: This unhappy Rencounter made me uncapable of further Proposals. So going back to my Lord *Mohun*, and being under an indispensible Necessity of hiding nothing from him, I told his Lordship all that had pass'd.

My Lord *Mohun* immediately said, *Maccartney*, I have all Day long thought you over-wise and managing in this Affair, and knew in my own Mind that it must come to this at last; now I conjure you to Secrecy, and that in order to it we may lie together at the *Bagnio*.

Whence going in a Coach on *Saturday* Morning, my Lord *Mohun* said to me, Notwithstanding any former Difference between you and t'other Gentleman, you must be rul'd by me at this time, and have nothing to do in this present Affair.

My Lord, said I, I am not to prefer my own Concerns to your Desires; it may perhaps be of Service to you both, and I'll obey you, but upon this Condition, that if this be not either propos'd, or readily agreed to by t'other Side, you will not insist.

Well, said Lord *Mohun*, if Duke *Hamilton* do not propose it, I will; and you have promis'd to comply.

Coming

Coming near the *Lodge* in the Park, we ſent to beſpeak a Breakfaſt, and choſe to walk, it being very cold; and ſoon after we eſpy'd Duke *Hamilton* and the Colonel following of us. My Lord Duke made ſome Compliment, and threw off his Cloke.

My Lord *Mohun* bowing to him, ſaid, I muſt ask your Grace one Favour, which is, that theſe Gentlemen may have nothing to do in our Quarrel; I have prevail'd with my Friend, and I hope your Grace will with yours.

To which the Duke anſwer'd, My Lord, I leave them to themſelves.

Immediately both Lords drew, and I can give little Account of their Action, being at the ſame Inſtant engaged with Colonel *Hamilton*, with whom after ſome Parrying I cloſed in, and getting his Sword from him with my Left Hand, he caught hold of mine with his Right Hand, juſt below the Hilt. Sir, ſaid I, ſtruggle not, for I have your Sword: Sir, ſaid he, I have a Grip of yours; quit it then, ſaid I, and don't force me to run you in the Back, but let's haſte to ſave them.

I ſaw the Lords then ſtruggle and fall together, their Ground being much changed in the Action; for at the beginning my Lord *Mohun* was on my Left Hand, and they now fell, almoſt behind Colonel *Hamilton*.

While

While I was yet uttering the Words I mentioned laſt, to Colonel *Hamilton*, the Keepers came up and found us two in this poſture, ſtanding upon our Legs cloſe ſtruggling, his Sword in my Left Hand free over his Right Shoulder, and my Sword in my Right Hand, he pulling at the Blade with both his.

One of theſe Keepers took our two Swords; and I think another ran at the ſame Inſtant to the Lords, crying out, What a deal of Miſchief is done here! would to God we had come ſooner; you Gentlemen are ſuch ſtrange Creatures!

As we ſtept to the Lords, as I think not above four Yards from us, Lord *Mohun* was not altogether on his Back, but in a manner between lying and ſitting, bending forwards to Duke *Hamilton*, of whoſe Sword he had a hold with his Left Hand. Duke *Hamilton* was on his Knees, leaning to his Left, almoſt acroſs Lord *Mohun*, and holding Lord *Mohun*'s Sword alſo faſt with his Left Hand, both ſtriving, but neither able to diſengage himſelf from t'other.

One of the Keepers, with Colonel *Hamilton*, firſt lifted the Duke; while with another, I endeavour'd the ſameService to my Lord *Mohun*, who immediately ſaid to me, I believe I am killed, for I feel ſeveral Wounds in my Belly. Good God forbid, ſaid I, and turning him on his wounded Side and Belly, ſtrove in vain to give him Relief.

I saw the Duke, supported by the Colonel and another, walk some Yards but staggering, which I imputed to a great Gash I saw in his Leg, which I thought had cut the Sinews.

I continu'd my Care about my Lord *Mohun* till hopes were past, and then sent his Body home in the same Coach that brought us.

After this melancholy Parting, I walkt by way of *Kensington* to your Lodgings, where I heard the first News of Duke *Hamilton*'s being a dying.

Tho' you must needs think me tedious in this Relation, I must yet appeal to your own Knowledge, of my Words and Expressions both as to Duke *Hamilton* and his Friend; you can testifie to the World how little my Behaviour, as to them, look'd like the previous Villanous Aspersions I am told of; and which I yet conclude to be only raised, believed and spread about, by such as are capable of those unnatural Barbarities that can never be imputed to,

SIR,

Your most Oblig'd Friend

and Servant,

MACCARTNEY.